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South Melbourne
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SOUTH MELBOURNE



EDITORIAL

All the best in 1996

TWO WEEKS ago I hosted a radio programme which, in itself, is maybe nothing startling – but the concept certainly was.

For the entire show all we talked about was football; no politics, no 'what's going on at the ASF' – just football.

And it didn't come as any great surprise to me that the feedback was so good – maybe part of that was because we had Paul Trimboli on!

In fact all week long both my office and the radio station got a series of phone calls saying how good the format was.

It's still in its embryonic stage, and still not available in Melbourne but if the expansion goes on as planned then you soon will, and that is fabulous news.

Because now, for the first time ever, we are getting so much media coverage of soccer that you literally can't take it all in.

Both Melbourne metropolitan newspapers are giving increasing coverage, with the *Herald-Sun* certainly being the print media leader.

Additionally, there is extensive radio coverage and then of course we have the specialist publications like *Australian Soccer Weekly*, *Soccer International* and *Soccer Australia*.

But the real boon this year has been in the coverage that the commercial TV stations are giving the game and for that you have to give a huge plug to Optus.

Because their Harry Michaels' produced programmes are now available to the commercial

stations, and what a top job Robbie Wheatley and his team are doing, we now get soccer on the news, on late night sports and in news updates.

Add to that our regular diet of fabulous SBS and we are really being spoiled.

So who's complaining?

Certainly not me and I believe that it is a positive sign that the interest in the game is on the up and up, and interest in football not just the goings on behind the scenes..

I don't read too much into the increase in Ericsson Cup crowd figures because in post World Cup seasons the trend is for increase and instead we have to be very careful not to suffer a decrease in the following two years.

But the signs are definitely there, and things are looking pretty damn fine.

However, I believe that the entry of the Perth Glory into next year's competition will also be a huge boost for the game.

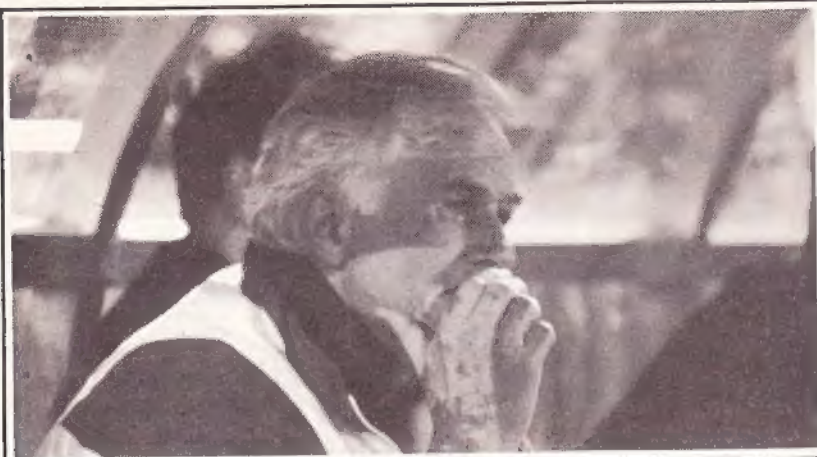
Their inclusion is the only innovative step that we have taken since the introduction of summer soccer and will reap huge rewards.

South Melbourne have already shown that we are the biggest club in the country and I believe that the new competition from the Golden West will do nothing but good for the game.

Everything really is looking good, so good that we are all undoubtedly set for a Good and prosperous New Year.

My sincere best wishes to all of our readers – have a good one.

SIMPL



NOTHING IS impossible. Just ask South Melbourne coach Frank Arok, a realist in a world of sporting fantasy, yet one who decided even when the Blues were perched on bottom spot in the Ericsson Cup that the game wasn't over.

"If we could string together another three good results then we could be right up there in the Top Six," he says.

But with Arok it isn't so much what he says, but *how* he says it.

He says it with an air of self belief, a belief born out of living in the jaws of unpredictability that is pro soccer in Australia.

"We are only two wins out of the Top Six just now," Arok adds.

"And really we are only three wins out of the Top Four."

That certainly makes sense to this reporter and in a league where the top team gets beaten by the bottom team on a regular basis stringing together a few good ones isn't such a big ask for the Blues.

Arok also believes in the ability of his side to do just that, not only the mathematics of life in the A League.

"With every game we are seeing more and more stability in the side," he reminds us.

"I think that the team can be good enough to get us there, and most importantly we aren't conceding any stupid goals anymore.

"As long as we stop that then we have a chance."

So you are probably right if you think that he is happy with an unbeaten run of three matches which has seen South take two wins and a draw against the stylish Morwell Falcons.

Wrong, and Frank Arok is quick

PLY THE BEST

The guru makes some pretty big statements – but they have that knack of coming true. Watch out for this one ...

to set the record straight.

"Against Morwell we hit the crossbar twice," he says.

"And in the last twenty minutes we put them under incredible pressure.

"In the end we didn't have the necessary luck, although we did play well and with confidence.

"But I want Bob Jane Stadium to be a place where no team wants to come, a place where everyone fears playing.

"We have the fans to make it such a place and I must say right now that they have been fantastic.

"Against Morwell we had seven thousand fans, while the Falcons had 41 – their two teams and staff.

"That gives us such an incredible advantage because of the atmosphere here.

"We are getting big crowds every single game and we are all very grateful to those fantastic supporters who have stuck by us.

"Every one of the players would do everything possible to please them because they are simply the best."

Arok is always good for quotes and in fact he is a headline writer's gift.

So when he comes out with big statements he tends to get the big headlines – in 99 point type.

A few weeks ago he was at it again with his "start of a new era" statement.

That drew a few ribald comments, especially as South Melbourne was

propping up the rest of the table.

But, once again, the guru was right.

Now he is lavishing praise on the magnificent Bob Jane Stadium, pointing out all the facilities that make it the best soccer ground in Australia.

"It is a luxury stadium," he says, "one which the players are proud to

call home.

"Now everyone will want to play for South Melbourne.

"Because we have the best ground, we have the best supporters and we are going to have the best team.

"We are going to make history."

Bruce Campbell





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ONLY ONE WINNER – and Ivan Kelic slips past a grounded David Cervinski in the Melbourne Knights defence. Kelic, the former Sydney Olympic player, is getting back to his old form and tops the South Melbourne scorer's charts – with the promise of more to come.

Peter Mitrakas

B.A. LL.B.

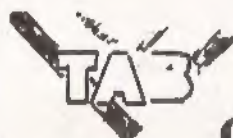
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Come on Gazza

THE South Melbourne fans missed out on seeing their very own version of "Gazza" when the team played Morwell Falcons with Alek Kuzmanovic sitting in the stand after copping a suspension after being red carded against the Knights.

That has given the classy defender another week for his blond 'Paul Gascoigne' hair style to grow out.

Paul Trimboli takes over the story.

"Alek and his wife were asked to do a bit of modelling for a hair studio so they both got their hair close cut and dyed blond," says Trimmers.

"Alek is a great fellow -

but it's lucky that his English isn't that good otherwise he would hear what the players are saying about his hair 'style'."

Trimmers drew short of comparing his hair to

Paul Gascoigne - especially with his sending off against the Knights.

"Yeh, maybe he is trying to imitate Gazza," conceded the Blues skipper.

In the meantime Kuzmanovic is set to return to the squad to show the style that saw South Melbourne woo him away from Melbourne Zebras last season.



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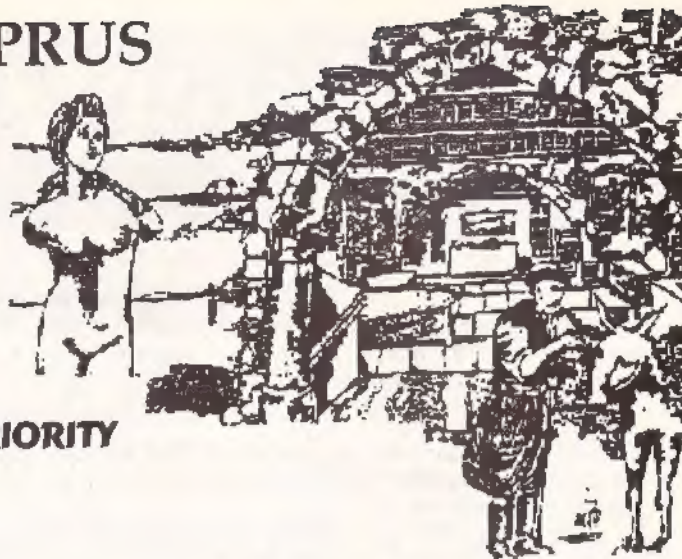
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BANK OF CYPRUS : A HUNDRED YEARS AHEAD



Extra time but no bonus

CONSTANT source of debate this season has been the amount of extra time been put onto games.

Depending on how you feel at the time, or whether your team suffers or benefits, reflects your own particular attitude to this conundrum.

But without doubt it is just another example of the increasing pressure and strain being placed on the men in the middle, the men who can seemingly do no right.

George Dobbin, a referee instructor and senior official agrees saying: "There is just too much being asked of them. Why can't we have independent timekeepers like they do in other sports?"

That would seem to make so much sense that it is surprising that nothing has ever been done. But the 'extra extra' time is nothing new and has really been a part of the world wide game for the last six or seven years.

It has just taken time to be really

experienced in Australia and maybe this season more than others our Ericsson Cup referees are under instruction to let the time on the field reflect the amount of time actually played. For the press it throws up other interesting side issues.

For instance if a player scores in the fourth minute of stoppage time in the first half is it recorded as the 45th or 49th minute? Most reporters carry on the age old convention of writing the

game up as a 90 minute whole with half time traditionally being blown at the 45th minute mark.

But that convention is no longer really appropriate. Maybe a better standard is to indicate which minute the interval falls in.

However it does make what is supposed to be a simple game a lot more complicated. Is five minutes extra time too long in any game, is the use of the word 'extra' really appropriate or should we instead refer to it as 'stoppage' time - or even 'overtime' as the Americans have it?

Sydney United suffered from 'stoppage' time in their game against UTS Olympic, a game they would have won if it had been played to the regulation 90 minutes or even the amount of stoppage time that we had been accustomed to.

For coaches it presents another problem, that of having players in peak condition now for 95 or even 100 minutes. Branko Culina is quick to point out the problems that the extra five or ten minutes can make.

"We would have to change our entire training philosophy around to accommodate that," he says. "But if it was consistently applied then we wouldn't have a worry."

It is also a big problem for the referees who's unpaid overtime is seldom popular - except of course if



FOR THE RECORD

The laws of football state that:

"The duration of the game shall be two equal periods of 45 minutes subject to the following;

- a) allowance shall be made in either period for all time lost through substitution, the transport from the field of injured players, time wasting or other cause, the amount of time which shall be a matter of discretion of the referee.
- b) time shall be extended to permit a penalty kick being taken at or after the expiration of the normal period in either half.

Ericsson Cup referees are also instructed to add on time for that lost through;

- a) substitutions
- b) cautions and send offs
- c) referees speaking to players
- d) players disputing referees decisions
- e) the organising of a defensive wall
- f) players celebrating goals (Ed. - now isn't that a dastardly crime)
- g) ball out of play for too long
- h) delays in re-starting the game through any cause



TOOHEYS BLUE



ERICSSON CUP THE TOP MARKSMEN

12	Damien MORI (Adelaide City)
7	Kris TRAJANOVSKI (UTS Olympic)
6	Frank FARINA (Brisbane Strikers)
6	Paul WADE (Canberra Cosmos)
5	Pablo CARDOZO (West Adelaide)
5	Andy HARPER (Marconi-Fairfield)
5	Tony PERINICH (Wollongong Wolves)
5	Warren SPINK (Morwell Falcons)
5	Kimon TALIADOROS (UTS Olympic)
4	Lachlan ARMSTRONG (Canberra Cosmos)
4	Francis AWARITEFE (Marconi-Fairfield)
4	Jason BENNETT (Newcastle Breakers)
4	Brian BOTHWELL (Morwell Falcons)
4	Rod BROWN (Brisbane Strikers)
4	Norman TOME (UTS Olympic)
4	Jim TSEKINIS (West Adelaide)
3	Sean CRANNEY (Brisbane Strikers)
3	Nathan DAY (West Adelaide)
3	Bradley HASSELL (Adelaide City)
3	Ivan KELIC (South Melbourne)
3	Andrew MARTIN (Melbourne Knights)
3	Joe MULLEN (Adelaide City)
3	Michael MUSITANO (Canberra Cosmos)
3	Marko PERINOVIC (Canberra Cosmos)
3	Mike SMITH (Marconi-Fairfield)
3	Steve PANOPOULOS (South Melbourne)
3	Joe SPITERI (Melbourne Knights)
3	Paul TRIMBOLI (South Melbourne)
3	Clayton ZANE (Newcastle Breakers)
3	David ZORILIC (Sydney United)
3	Chris ZORICICH (Brisbane Strikers)
2	Ross ALOISI (West Adelaide)
2	Walter ARDONE (UTS Olympic)
2	Elias AUGERINOS (UTS Olympic)
2	Shaun BABIC (Sydney United)
2	Mark BATTISTIN (Brisbane Strikers)

1995/96 SOUTH MELBOURNE STATS

Best Crowd:

11,956 v West Adelaide (Home) – Round 9

Best Home Crowd:

11,956 v West Adelaide (Home) – Round 9

Total Home Crowds:

40,839 (6 games)

Average Home Crowd:

6,806

95/96 Ericsson Cup Top Crowd:

11,956 South Melbourne v West Adelaide – Round 9

*All figures are based on official ASF records and not those reported in the press.

ERICSSON CUP PLAYER APPEARANCES

04	Alsopp
11	Anastasiadis
12	Anthopoulos
07	Baser
03	Blatsis
11	Coveny
01	Curcija
11	Damianos
05	Davidson
02	Duric
12	Kelic
11	Kuzmanovic
11	Lewis
02	Lilkakis
07	Mangos
09	Nikolic
10	Panopoulos
03	Papadopoulos
12	Petersen
10	Sherifovski
12	Trimboli
07	Valkanis



GOAL SCORERS:

04	Steve PANOPOULOS
03	Ivan KELIC
03	Paul TRIMBOLI
01	Daniel ALSOPP
01	Vaughan COVENY
01	Bill DAMIANOS
01	Craig LEWIS
01	Steve MANGOS
01	Agim SHERIFOVSKI

the next Ericsson Cup Matches at Bob Jane Stadium

v
UTS Olympic
Sunday, 4 February 1996
KICK OFF 7.00pm

v
Marconi-Fairfield
Sunday, 11 February 1996
KICK OFF 7.00pm

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ADELAIDE CITY

YELLOW SHIRTS, SHORTS & SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

PETKOVIC

IVANOVIC

YATEES

TOBIN

PERIN

MULLEN

MENNILLO

LOZANOVSKI

GIBSON

MORI

HASSELL

COACH: John Perin

ADELAIDE SQUAD

Jason Petkovic 1
Sas Nedeljkovic 2
Mark Yates 3
Milan Ivanovic 4
Alex Tobin (c) 5
Carlo Talladira 6
Damian Mori 7
Bradley Hassell 8
Joe Mullen 9
John Gibson 10
Goran Lozanovski 11
Jamie Perin 12
Angelo Costanzo 13
Bradley Armour 14
Joel Marino 15
Dino Mennillo 16
Kosta Salapasis 17
18
Craig Foster 19
Daniel Mignano 20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

v Canberra Cosmos (9.12.95) DREW 0-0
Morwell Falcons (2.12.95) WON 4-0
v Newcastle Breakers (17.11.95) LOST 1-2
v West Adelaide (5.11.95) WON 2-1
v UTS Olympic (22.10.95) LOST 0-1
v Wollongong City (15.10.95) WON 2-0

CURRENT FORM: Three games without defeat for the mighty Blues – but this looks a real tough one. In fact it has 'draw' written all over it – but it's Christmas and I'm going to stick my neck where only Blakey want's it to be!
Prediction: South Melbourne 2-0

SOUTHERN MOTORS & BOB JANE T-MARTS

SOUTH MELBOURNE

THE BLUES SQUAD

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Con Blatsis
- 3 Steve Mangos
- 4 Alek Kuzmanovic
- 5 Mike Valkanis
- 6 Con Anthopoulos
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveney
- 9 Paul Trimboli (C)
- 10 Ivan Kelic
- 11 Agim Sherifovski
- 12 Bill Damianos
- 13 Craig Lewis
- 14 Michael Petersen
- 15 Nick Papadopoulos
- 16 Tansell Baser
- 17 Sasa Nikolic
- 18 Michael Curcija
- 19 Daniel Alsopp
- 20 Michael Liliakakis
- 21 Aleksander Duric
- 22 Alan Davidson
- 23 Michael Petkovic
- 24
- 25
- 26 George Tsianakas
- 27
- 28
- 29

COACH: Frank Arok

LAST SIX LEAGUE HOME GAMES

- v Morwell Falcons (16.12.95) DREW 2-2
- v Melbourne Knights (10.12.95) WON 1-0
- v Newcastle Breakers (6.12.95) WON 3-1
- v West Adelaide (26.11.95) LOST 2-3
- v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
- v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2

BLUE SHIRTS BLUE SHORTS WHITE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP



LAST SEASON:

South Melbourne 1 Adelaide City 2
But the Blues took the away game 3-1 in a great mid-week match, a game which started the club's fight back.

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WOLLONGONG

BLUE SHIRTS, SHORTS & WHITE SOCKS

LIKELY LINE-UP

HUGHES

GJAKOVSKI

DIHM

JOLEVSKI

BOURKE

HORSLEY

NAUMOVSKI

MIDDLEBY

RICOY

PERINICH

JERMAN

COACH: Berti Mariani

WOLVES SQUAD

Brett Hughes 1
Bill Gjakovski 2
George Jolevski 3
Angelo Petratos 4
Martin Bourke 5
Matthew Horsley 6
Claudio Cellini 7
Lupcho Naumovski 8
Stuart McLaren 9
Pedro Ricoy 10
Tony Perinich 11
Robbie Middleby 12
Richard Lloyd 13
Colin Luff 14
Steve Forshaw 15
Mineo Bonetig 16
Matthew Dihm 17
Mario Jerman 18
Aaron O'Brien 19
Steven Angelov 20
21
22
23
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28

LAST SIX LEAGUE AWAY GAMES

v Adelaide City (17.12.95)
v Newcastle Breakers (3.12.95) WON 2-1
v West Adelaide (19.11.95) LOST 1-2
v UTS Olympic (5.11.95) LOST 0-3
v Canberra Cosmos (1.11.95) LOST 1-3
v Morwell Falcons (7.10.95) LOST 1-4

CURRENT FORM: The classic top v bottom table clash. The Wolves are struggling to get form away from home this season while United are really starting to put it together. Watch out for the partnership of Perinich and former United player Mario Jerman. Prediction: United 3-0.

&figuresfacts&figuresfacts&

BIG MATCH RESULTS

Ericsson Cup

ROUND 13

Friday 15 December

Newcastle Breakers 0

Marconi-Fairfield 2 (Longo, Harper)

Venue: Breakers Stadium

Att: 3,399 Referee: C Naumcevski

Saturday 16 December

Brisbane Strikers 3 (R Brown, Farina, Zoricich)

West Adelaide 1 (Day)

Venue: Suncorp Stadium

Att: 4,152 Referee: B Hugo

Sydney United 3 (Popovic 2, Lamond)

Canberra Cosmos 0

Venue: Croatian Sports Centre

Att: 4,984 Referee: S Micallef

Sunday 17 December

South Melbourne 2 (Panopoulos, Trimboli)

Morwell Falcons 2 (Spink, Bothwell)

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium

Att: 6,976 Referee: E Brazzale

Adelaide City 1 (Mori)

Wollongong City 0

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium

Att: 4,255 Referee: W Dade

Melbourne Knights 0

UTS Olympic 1 (Taliadoros)

Venue: Croatian Sports Centre

Att: 5,860 Referee: G Connolly

National Youth League

Round 10

Green Gully 3 Springvale City 0

South Melbourne 5 Morwell Falcons 1

Port Melbourne 4 North Geelong 0

Melbourne Knights 4 Bulleen 1

VIS 4 Melbourne Zebras 1

Altona Magic 1 Heidelberg United 7

LEADING SCORER: Michael Curcija 13 goals

Ericsson Cup

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UTS Olympic	13	8	3	2	25	15	27
Marconi-Fairfield	13	7	3	3	19	13	24
Sydney United	13	6	5	2	16	9	23
Adelaide City	13	6	3	4	24	12	21
Brisbane Strikers	13	7	0	6	20	19	21
Melbourne Knights	13	6	2	5	14	12	20
Morwell Falcons	13	6	2	5	18	20	20
West Adelaide	13	4	4	5	17	18	16
Canberra Cosmos	13	3	5	5	19	20	14
South Melbourne	13	4	2	7	16	23	14
Wollongong City	13	3	1	9	11	21	10
Newcastle Breakers	13	2	2	9	12	29	8

National Youth League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VIS	10	6	3	1	35	12	21
Green Gully	10	7	0	3	24	15	21
Bulleen Lions	10	6	3	1	18	10	21
South Melbourne	10	5	3	2	25	11	18
Melbourne Knights	10	5	3	2	26	20	18
Melbourne Zebras	10	3	5	2	18	14	14
Springvale City	10	3	4	3	15	18	13
Heidelberg United	10	3	3	4	19	19	12
Morwell Falcons	9	3	2	4	22	28	11
Altona Magic	9	3	0	6	8	20	9
Port Melbourne	10	1	0	9	11	24	3
North Geelong	10	0	2	8	6	36	2

ERICSSON CUP NOTICE

Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game.

Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.

The setting alight of, or the igniting or discharging of any type of object, including fireworks, signal or smoke flares, is strictly prohibited.

OFFENDERS WILL BE ARRESTED AND CHARGED

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The Blue & White Record

ERICSSON CUP - FIRST PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (8.10.95) LOST 0-1
 A v Morwell Falcons (13.10.95) WON 1-0
 A v Adelaide City (18.10.95) WON 2-1
 H v Canberra Cosmos (22.10.95) DREW 2-2
 A v Wollongong City (27.10.95) LOST 0-2
 H v Sydney United (5.11.95) LOST 0-2
 A v UTS Olympic (12.11.95) LOST 2-4
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (18.11.95) LOST 1-3
 H v West Adelaide (26.11.95) LOST 2-3
 A v Brisbane Strikers (2.12.95) LOST 0-3
 H v Newcastle Breakers (6.12.95) WON 3-1



ERICSSON CUP - SECOND PHASE

H v Melbourne Knights (10.12.95) WON 1-0
 H v Morwell Falcons (17.12.95) DREW 2-2
 H v Adelaide City (23.12.95)
 A v Canberra Cosmos (26.12.95)
 H v Wollongong City (29.12.95)
 A v Sydney United (7.01.96)
 H v UTS Olympic (4.02.96)
 H v Marconi-Fairfield (11.02.96)
 A v West Adelaide (18.02.96)
 H v Brisbane Strikers (25.02.96)
 A v Newcastle Breakers (1.03.96)

ERICSSON CUP - THIRD PHASE

A v Melbourne Knights (10.03.96)
 H v Morwell Falcons (13.03.96)
 A v Adelaide City (17.03.96)
 H v Canberra Cosmos (24.03.96)
 A v Wollongong City (27.03.96)
 H v Sydney United (31.03.96)
 H v UTS Olympic (6.04.96)
 A v Marconi-Fairfield (8.04.96)
 H v West Adelaide (14.04.96)
 A v Brisbane Strikers (20.04.96)
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